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GOVERNMENT STATISTICIAN, BRISBANE.

BULLETIN NO. 5 OF 1948.

PERSONS RECEIVING UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFIT, OCTOBER, 1947.

This bulletin has been prepared from detailed tabulations, made available by the Commonwealth Statistician, of unemployed persons in Queensland who were in receipt of Commonwealth unemployment benefit at the end of October, 1947. The information covers only those persons actually in receipt of unemployment benefit, no account being taken of those whose applications for benefit are awaiting consideration or those who do not apply for benefit. The figures given, therefore, are only a part of total unemployment, although the proportions due to the various causes and in the various industries are broadly applicable to the total. Persons receiving sickness or special benefits are also excluded.

Comparison with Previous Months.

The October figures of persons in receipt of unemployment benefit were 1,827 males and 80 females, the total of 1,907 being 5,685 less than the peak figure of 7,592 for February, and 993 below the corresponding figure for the previous October.

<u>End of Month.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
<u>1946.</u>						
October ..	2,814	86	2,900	1,827	80	1,907
November ..	3,570	94	3,664			
December ..	5,971	168	6,139			
<u>1947.</u>						
January ..	7,262	228	7,490			
February ..	7,594	198	7,592			
March ..	6,505	184	6,689			
April ..	4,698	149	4,847			
May ..	3,935	151	4,086			
June ..	3,102	129	3,231			
July ..	2,747	113	2,860			
August ..	2,089	97	2,186			
September ..	1,912	87	1,999			

From October, 1946, unemployment rose, principally on account of seasonal causes, up to the peak month for unemployment (February, 1947) which showed 4,692 more persons on benefit than in October, 1946. From that month, re-absorption of displaced seasonal workers began to take effect, until in October, 1947 there were nearly 1,000 fewer persons on benefit than there were at the same time in the previous year. The number on benefit on account of the seasonal nature of their work fell to 168 in August, 1947. Seasonal unemployment began to increase again in October 1947, but the decrease in most other causes in the Brisbane District caused the total figure to fall further.

The number of females receiving benefit at the end of October was 80, compared with 87 for September, and 86 a year earlier. The Brisbane District figure (37) was the highest recorded for any one district for the month. Toowoomba District had 9 females drawing unemployment benefit at the end of October, and Rockhampton 9. The balance of 25 was distributed throughout the rest of the State.

Causes of unemployment are given below for the months of October, 1946, February (the peak month), September and October, 1947, together with the increase or decrease during October, 1947, for each cause.

<u>Cause of Unemployment.</u>	<u>October,</u> <u>1946.</u>	<u>February,</u> <u>1947.</u>	<u>September,</u> <u>1947.</u>	<u>October,</u> <u>1947.</u>	<u>Increase (+)</u> <u>or Decrease (-)</u> <u>in October.</u>
Medical unfitness for type of work, work too heavy ..	109	100	47	49	+2
Inefficiency, incompetence ..	112	144	78	70	-8
Establishment closed, reduction of staff	491	854	423	368	-55
Replaced by re-instated servicemen	116	131	60	45	-15
Shortage of materials	130	252	86	76	-10
Seasonal work and weather conditions	276	3,327	179	273	+94
Casual work	495	958	368	337	-31
Discharged or laid off for other reasons	458	514	171	164	-7
Quitted because work too heavy, medically unfit, etc. ..	231	440	287	267	-20
Quitted for other reasons ..	179	324	136	113	-23
Not previously employed ..	323	548	164	145	-19
	2,900	7,592	1,999	1,907	-92

The number of persons drawing benefit because of the seasonal nature of their work showed an increase in October in all districts with the exception of Downs and South-west, the largest increase being in the Central District where Rockhampton showed an increase of 82. The total increase in unemployment in the State due to this cause was 94.

Apart from "Seasonal Unemployment", all causes except "Medical Unfitness for Type of Work" recorded decreases during October. These decreases more than offset the increase in seasonal unemployment, and the State's unemployment total fell by 92.

The following statement shows the number of persons drawing benefit in each district in October, 1946, and October, 1947, and the number in the intervening month showing the highest level of unemployment, together with the increase to, and decrease from, the seasonal peak. Nearly all districts showed figures in October, 1947, substantially less than the corresponding figures a year earlier, except Emerald, Longreach, and Ayr, where the figures were very small, and Charters Towers, which had 108 persons on benefit compared with 69 in the previous October.

<u>District.</u>	<u>October,</u> <u>1946.</u>	<u>Peak Month of Unemployment during 1946-47.</u>	<u>October,</u> <u>1947.</u>	<u>Increase,</u> <u>October,</u> <u>1946 to Peak.</u>	<u>Decrease,</u> <u>Peak to October,</u> <u>1947.</u>
Brisbane ..	1,401	2,065 (Feb. 1947)	1,135	664	930
Ipswich ..	154	190 (Dec. 1946)	30	36	160
Gympie ..	21	30 (Feb. 1947)	8	9	22
Maryborough	127	221 (Jan. 1947)	14	94	207
Bundaberg ..	101	596 (Jan. 1947)	27	495	569
Toowoomba ..	94	177 (Feb. 1947)	70	83	107
Warwick ..	23	42 (Dec. 1946)	20	19	22
Roma ..	10	24 (Dec. 1946)	6	14	18
Charleville	44	75 (Dec. 1946)	13	31	62
Rockhampton	345	1,462 (Jan. 1947)	256	1,117	1,206
Emerald ..	1	10 (Jan. 1947)	1	9	9
Longreach ..	12	117 (Dec. 1946)	14	105	103
Mackay ..	229	861 (Mar. 1947)	46	632	815
Ayr ..	10	233 (Feb. 1947)	10	223	223
Townsville	127	616 (Mar. 1947)	80	489	536
Ingham ..	7	440 (Mar. 1947)	3	433	437
Innisfail ..	15	368 (Mar. 1947)	4	353	364
Cairns ..	77	599 (Mar. 1947)	44	522	555
Charters Towers	69	182 (Feb. 1947)	108	113	74
Atherton ..	30	78 (Mar. 1947)	16	48	62
Hughenden ..	3	52 (Feb. 1947)	2	49	50
Total State	2,900	7,592 (Feb. 1947)	1,907	4,692	5,685

Causes by Districts.

The appended table (No. 1) shows the main causes of unemployment in each district. Moreton numbers were the highest in any district in October, 1947, and they represented a proportion of the district population above the State average. Moreton district is relatively unaffected by seasonal unemployment, and its rate of unemployment tends to be above the State average in months when seasonal activity reduces unemployment to a low level in other districts, and below the State average when seasonal activity in other districts has decreased, and raised the numbers unemployed in those districts. Comparison of the rates per 10,000 population showed the highest figure for the North-West Districts, closely followed by the Central Districts. The increase compared with September in the Central Districts was due to seasonal displacement of meatworkers in Rockhampton District. Brisbane showed a decrease in October for nearly all causes. The South-East Coastal Districts showed the lowest rate, followed by Downs and South-West, and North Coastal Districts which, as in September, were low on account of the almost complete absence of seasonal unemployment in these areas.

Industries by Districts.

Table No. 2 shows the industries in which these drawing benefit are normally engaged. Food and Drink have the highest total (18 per cent. of the total drawing unemployment benefit), followed by Building and Construction (12 per cent.). The largest decreases compared with September were in Agricultural, Pastoral and Dairying (171 to 142), and Shipping and Wharf work (91 to 68). Food and Drink factories showed a fairly large increase (274 to 346).

The most significant change in district totals during October, was an increase in unemployed persons who were previously employed in Food and Drink factories in the Rockhampton District, presumably meatworks, whose numbers increased from 74 in September to 153 in October.

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ACTING GOVERNMENT STATISTICIAN.

BRISBANE.

9th February, 1948.

TABLE 1. - PERSONS RECEIVING UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFIT, QUEENSLAND.

OCTOBER, 1947.

DISTRICTS AND CAUSES OF UNEMPLOYMENT.

DISTRICT.	Discharged or Laid Off.							Quitted.		Total.			
	Medical unfitness for particular type of work, work too heavy, etc.	Inefficiency, incompetence.	Establishment closed, reduction of staff, permanent retrenchment.	Replaced by re-instated servicemen, relieving worker only.	Shortage of materials.	Seasonal work and weather conditions.	Casual work.	Discharged or laid-off for other reasons.	Medical unfitness, work too heavy, medical advice.	Quitted for other reasons.	Not previously employed.	Number.	Per 10,000 population.
Brisbane ..	32	53	262	34	54	47	192	103	186	71	101	1,135	
Ipswich ..	.	1	4	1	1	2	7	4	2	4	4	30	
Moreton ..	32	54	266	35	55	49	199	107	188	75	105	1,165	21
Gympie ..	.	1	1	.	1	.	1	2	2	.	.	8	
Maryborough ..	.	.	1	1	.	2	3	2	2	2	1	14	
Bundaberg ..	.	.	4	1	4	7	5	1	2	2	1	27	
S.E.Coastal ..	.	1	6	2	5	9	9	5	6	4	2	49	4
Toowoomba ..	1	2	12	2	8	.	15	12	13	3	2	70	
Warwick ..	1	2	3	.	.	.	5	2	4	2	1	20	
Roma ..	.	.	.	.	.	1	3	2	.	.	.	6	
Charleville ..	.	.	.	.	.	4	7	1	.	.	1	13	
Downs & S.W. ..	2	4	15	2	8	5	30	17	17	5	4	109	8
Rockhampton ..	3	3	23	3	4	139	30	14	13	12	12	256	
Emerald ..	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	1	
Longreach ..	.	1	1	.	.	3	3	1	4	1	.	14	
Central ..	3	4	24	3	4	142	33	15	17	13	13	271	27
Rockay ..	3	1	3	.	.	7	17	4	6	2	3	46	
Yir ..	1	.	4	.	.	3	1	1	.	.	.	10	
Townsville ..	3	5	15	1	.	19	2	8	17	7	3	80	
Ingham ..	.	.	.	.	.	1	1	.	1	.	.	3	
Emmisfail ..	.	.	1	.	.	2	.	.	1	.	.	4	
Cairns ..	1	.	13	.	.	25	2	.	.	1	2	44	
N. Coastal ..	8	6	36	1	.	57	23	13	25	10	8	187	12
Charters Towers ..	4	1	19	2	4	10	33	6	14	5	10	108	
Atherton ..	.	.	1	.	.	1	9	1	.	1	3	16	
Hughenden ..	.	.	1	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	2	
North West ..	4	1	21	2	4	11	43	7	14	6	13	126	28
TOTAL STATE	49	70	368	45	76	273	337	164	267	113	145	1,907	17

TABLE 2. - PERSONS RECEIVING UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFIT, QUEENSLAND.

OCTOBER, 1947.

DISTRICTS AND INDUSTRIES.

S/T 1980